



Horticultural  
Development  
Company

# New Project

---

## HNS 164

Improving basal breaking of  
field-grown roses using  
ethylene releasing agents

**Project Number:** HNS 164

**Title:** Improving basal breaking of field-grown roses using ethylene releasing agents

**Start and end dates:** 1 April 2008 to 31 June 2010 (2 years and 3 months)

**Project Leader:** Mark Else, EMR

**Project Co-ordinator:** Neal Wright, Micropropagation Services

**Location:** Chessum Plants, Briar Patch Nursery, Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 9BS

## **Background and project objectives**

The potential of low volume, low concentrations ethylene releasing agents (ERA), to improve basal breaking and product quality in 'shy' rose cultivars will be determined in field trials at Chessum Plants (formerly Paul Chessum Roses). Solutions of ERA will be applied to the graft union and young shoots of maiden bushes; plants sprayed with water and wetting agent only and unsprayed, pruned maiden bushes will serve as controls. The number and diameter of basal breaks will be recorded several times during the production season and again following lifting in autumn. The effects of ERAs on the percentage grade-out of Class 1 bushes will be determined. The quality of sprayed plants at the half- and full-growth stages in the subsequent spring/summer will also be determined.

Further information

Email the HDC office ([hdc@hdc.org.uk](mailto:hdc@hdc.org.uk)), quoting your HDC number, alternatively contact the HDC at the address below.

Horticultural Development Company  
Tithe Barn  
Bradbourne House  
East Malling  
Kent  
ME19 6DZ

Tel: 01732 848 383  
Fax: 01732 848 498

The contents of this publication are strictly private to HDC members. No part of this publication may be copied or reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the Horticultural Development Company.